Mr Jason McNamara
Executive Director
Office of Best Practice Regulation
Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet
1 National Circuit
BARTON ACT 2600

Email: helpdesk@obpr.gov.au

Dear Mr McNamara

Regulation Impact Statement –final assessment second pass

I am writing in relation to the attached Regulation Impact Statement (RIS) prepared for regulations for honey levy reforms. The regulatory burden to business, community organisations and/or individuals has been quantified. As the reforms will be deregulatory in nature, no offsets have been identified. Compliance costs estimates have been calculated using the Regulatory Burden Measurement framework and these estimates have been agreed with your office.
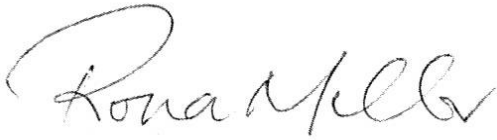
I am satisfied that the RIS addresses the concerns that were raised in your letter of 10 February 2015. Specifically, the RIS now includes:

- better targeted information on the nature of the problem in relation to biosecurity risk

- additional content on the industry view that the effectiveness of state-based policies and systems in relation to American foulbrood (AFB) has decreased, and an explanation of how the industry-proposed National Bee Biosecurity Pragram aims to reduce annual AFB-related costs.

- a broader, more over-arching statement on the objective of Government

- an assessment of the competition impacts for all options

- additional information on consultation, including a summary of stakeholder views

- a description of the status of the RIS at each major decision point during the policy development process

- clarification that the compliance cost estimate provided applies to all options other than option 1, which would retain the status quo

- a list of acronyms used in the RIS.

Accordingly, I am satisfied that the RIS now meets best practice consistent with the *Australian Government Guide to Regulation*.

I submit the RIS to the Office of Best Practice Regulation for formal final assessment.

Yours sincerely

Rona Mellor PSM
Deputy Secretary
Dept of Agriculture
12 /03/2015